GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3638
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
SHORTAGE OF LADY DOCTORS IN PHCS
Chaudhary Shri Jayant

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of lady doctors in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and hospitals located in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrange lady doctors in these areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): The shortage of key health human resources including Lady Doctors in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) is indeed one of the important factors impeding the health delivery system in rural India. As on March 2008, 3000 PHCs in the country have lady doctors posted against sanctioned posts. The GOI has operatinalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for bridging the gap in rural health care services through rapid augmentation of health human resources. Several initiatives have been taken in this regard. The various initiatives include contractual engagement of health staff based on local residence criteria, multi-skilling of doctors and para-medics, provision of incentives to serve in rural areas like blended payments, difficult area allowances, PG allowance, case based payments, improved accommodation arrangements etc. provision of Ayush doctors and paramedics in PHCs and CHCs as additional doctors in rural areas, block pooling of doctors in underserved areas, engaging with the non-government sector for underserved areas through contracting in or contracting out of human resources. These steps have improved the availability of key human resources including lady doctors in the rural areas.